

Wisconsin Nursery Association; Wisconsin Sod Producers; Ivan Kohar Parra, Executive Director, Latino Community Development Center.

#### TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR JERRY PONTIUS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Arthur Jerry Pontius of Deadwood, SD, with a Congressional Fire Caucus Certificate of Award. Jerry has served the Deadwood Volunteer Fire Department for over 40 years, and has been an exemplary citizen through his selflessness and dedication to community safety and well-being. I am pleased and honored to say that this award could not go to a more qualified or deserving person.

Jerry graduated second in his class from the Deadwood Public High School system in 1957, and went on to earn a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. After working for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Jerry came home to Deadwood, where he eventually became the mechanical engineer for the Homestake Mining Company. He stayed with Homestake for 25 years, serving in various capacities, most recently as the chief plant engineer. He left Homestake in 1990 and retired in 1998.

Over the years, despite his busy work life, Jerry has found time to serve his country and his community in countless ways. He first joined the Deadwood Volunteer Fire Department in 1963, and has been an integral part of the department ever since. In addition to serving in various positions within the department, including fire chief, certified instructor, and member of the Board of Trustees, Jerry has served as the president of the South Dakota Firemen's Association and on the Governor's Commission on Fire Service Training. During his tenure as president of the South Dakota Fireman's Association, the bylaws were changed to admit women, representing the best of American values of social equality. Most recently, Jerry received the "Outstanding Service Award for Service as assistant chief during the Grizzly Gulch Fire" in 2002.

It is hard to imagine someone doing more for his or her community's safety during their lifetime. As are so many South Dakotans, I am thankful for Jerry's commitment and work to ensure that not only the community of Deadwood, but all South Dakota communities are safe and secure from fires. It is only fitting that Jerry receive this award, as tribute to his incredible contributions to fire safety efforts in South Dakota.

#### SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND COPS FUNDING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago a 17-year-old student was shot and killed at Ballou High School in Wash-

ington, DC. This shooting was the second in a 4-month period at the school. Earlier this week, in Albany, NY, another school shooting took place, and while only minor injuries resulted, the incident is another example of the impact of gun violence on students.

School violence, or even the threat of school violence, instills fear in our students, and limits their ability to learn. It also threatens and intimidates teachers and makes instruction more difficult. Violence in our schools puts the learning environment in jeopardy.

That is one reason why I am troubled by President Bush's fiscal year 2005 budget. The President's budget proposes a total elimination of funding for the COPS in Schools Program. As my colleagues know, the COPS in Schools program is designed to help law enforcement agencies hire school resource officers to engage in community policing in and around primary and secondary schools. COPS in Schools provides an incentive for law enforcement agencies to build collaborative partnerships with the school community and to use community policing efforts to combat school violence.

Since 1994, in my home State of Michigan, police departments have received more than \$210 million, hired more than 3,300 officers, and the COPS in Schools program has added 143 school resource officers, but with the President's cuts to the COPS program, additional Federal assistance would not be on the way. The President's \$900 million in cuts to COPS funding would require local police departments around the country to stretch even further the limited number of dollars they have to protect our schools and communities.

I urge my colleagues to support efforts to reinstate COPS funding so that we might ensure a safer environment for our children to learn.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

One such crime occurred in Santa Rosa, CA, on September 20, 1999. Four youths allegedly fired shots from a pellet gun toward a woman whose car had gay pride, diversity, and rainbow stickers on it. The youths also allegedly yelled derogatory comments regarding the woman's sexual orientation.

The first duty of Government is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### THE JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, millions of Americans have seen corporations move their jobs overseas. Americans are losing jobs in every sector of our economy—not only in manufacturing, but also in computer technology, the service sector, and health care. Positions like call center technician, information technology specialist, and even health care worker are evaporating at an amazing clip.

Experts estimate that 40 percent of Fortune 1000 companies are currently using some form of overseas outsourcing. As many as 3.3 million jobs may be offshored in the next 15 years, causing American workers to lose \$136 billion in wages. Worst of all, we are losing jobs in sectors that once provided our economy with its greatest growth like the information technology sector. As many as 500,000 information technology jobs could go overseas in coming years.

The tragedy of our disappearing jobs is about more than just numbers. This week, a Wisconsin auto parts manufacturer announced that it was moving 500 jobs overseas, putting an equivalent number of workers out on the street. IBM has announced plans to displace thousands of computer programmers by moving their work to other countries. These workers represent the human cost of offshore outsourcing.

This cost—all too real for most Americans—is ignored by the Bush administration, whose chief economic advisor stated this week that outsourcing is "a plus for the economy in the long run."

Tell that to the 15 million Americans who are out of work today. Tell that to the millions more who had to settle for new jobs at lower pay. Tell that to the millions of Americans struggling every day to provide for their families, pay the bills, and cope with rising health care and college costs.

What we are seeing is a President out of touch with the needs of working Americans. He thinks it is good to deny overtime pay to workers. He opposes an increase in the minimum wage. He opposes unemployment coverage for workers looking for new jobs. And now he wants to ship your jobs overseas.

Exporting American jobs may help the bottom line on Wall Street, but it hurts the bottom lines of America's families.

Today, we are saying enough is enough. If President Bush and his corporate pals want to send your job overseas, then they will be held accountable.

The Jobs for America Act amends the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification, WARN, Act to require companies to report whenever they lay off workers to send jobs overseas. When company plans to lay off workers and send those jobs overseas, they need to tell workers in advance. And they need to inform the Department of Labor, and local government officials. They